Rating of Indian equity market by HSBC

2552. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Business observer of Sept. 16, 1998 H.S.B.C. Securities has rated the Indian Equity Market as the most attractive market in Asian Sub-Continent, which could survive the allround market depression and recession in Asian Economies; and

(b) if so, what factors are taken into account while grading the Equity markets, and where Indian market stands in respect of the various aspects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b)H.S.B.C. Securities in its update dated 31.8.98 of Asian Strategy has moved India to an overweight stance, after taking into consideration the factors like relatively benign surplus liquidity conditions, stable earning outlook and low level of policy/political risk in India.

Arrangement between SBI and Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation

2553. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India and the Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation have entered into an arrangement called "Takeover Finance", to enable non-lenders to participate in various infrastructure development projects; and

(b) if so, the details of the arrangement, and how much of non-lenders' fund is expected from this arrangement to be made available for such projects during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Perhaps the Hon'ble Member wants to know about "Take out Finance". The State Bank of India (SBI) and Infrastructure Development Finance Co. Limited (IDFC) have entered into an arrangement called "Takeout Finance" structure to address some of the constraints faced in financing infrastructure sector.

(b) SBI has reported that the agreement envisages Liquidity Support and Credit risk supprot. IDFC and SBI have entered into an agreement to initially participate in projects under the Take Out Financing Structure upto an aggregate amount of Rs. 400 crore, which limit may be reviewed and revised by mutual consent.

Fixation of Brand Rate

2554. SHRI S. AGANIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of cases of fixation of Brand Rate application pending in the Revenue Department as of October, 1998;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases for fixation of Brand Rates are getting delayed; and

(c) what steps are being taken up to speed up the clearance of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) 1,700 cases are pending for fixation of Brand Rate of drawback as on 31.10.1998.

(b) Yes, Sir. The delay in fixation of Brand Rate of Drawback is due to (i) delay in furnishng the application by the